

አስፈላጊ መረጃ። አባከዎ ይህን እንዲተረጎም ያድርጉ። | አንዳሲ ሓበሬታ። ብክብረትኩም እዚ ከም ዝትርጎም ግበሩ።
معلومات مهمة. الرجاء ترجمتها. | Información importante. Por favor, que esto se traduzca.
معلومات مهم , لطفا این ترجمه را انجام دهید | لطفا از شخصی بخواهید تا این متن را برای شما ترجمه کند.
ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਤੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾਉ। | 중요한 정보입니다. 이것을 번역하시기 바랍니다.

August 27, 2021

Dear Families:

Following the announcement by the Minister of Education and the Provincial Health Officer on Tuesday about what school will look like this year, I'm writing to share information with you that I hope will answer many of the questions you may have.

The plans set out by the Government of BC have students attending in-person at school full time. Additionally, many of the safety measures in place at the end of last year are continuing. What follows are some key points.

COVID-19 Guidelines for K-12 Schools

- **Masks:** All K-12 staff, visitors, and all students in Grades 4-12 are required to wear a mask while indoors at school. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to do so, as well. Masks will be provided to those who need them.
- **Health Check:** Students and staff will continue to be asked to do the [daily health check](#) to determine if they should come into the building that day and should not attend if they are unwell.
- **Learning Groups:** The Province's plan does not have cohorts or learning groups and these will not be in place.
- **Sports and Extracurriculars:** The guidelines include greater opportunities for school sports, music and extracurricular activities, in line with health orders.

More information can be found [here](#) in the press release, as well as on the government's COVID-19 Safe Schools site [here](#), which contains the full guidelines.

Further Information About How This Looks in Burnaby

- **Cleaning:** Daytime custodians will be performing COVID-19 cleaning protocols at all schools, supplemented with intensive cleaning done each evening. In addition to this regular vigilant cleaning, as in the last school year, notice of a COVID-19 exposure from the Fraser Health Authority will also trigger a deep clean protocol. We are awaiting confirmation from Fraser Health about what the school exposure notification process will look like this year.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Students and staff will be asked to frequently wash their hands. Last year nearly 100 additional sinks were installed throughout the district to help support this and remain in place. Hand sanitizer will also be available on site.
- **Physical Distancing:** Even though public health is no longer recommending strict physical distancing of two metres, schools will work on strategies to respect personal space and maximize distance.
- **Ventilation:** HVAC systems in the district are designed, operated and maintained to Occupational Health and Safety and WorkSafeBC standards, and are programmed to bring in as much fresh air as possible. Air flow will continue to be supported by opening available exterior windows and doors. Compatible school ventilation systems have a high efficiency filter (MERV-13) that is regularly replaced to maximize effectiveness. Where ventilation and exterior windows are not available, stand-alone air scrubbers are

placed in the classroom to support air quality. As much as possible, outdoor learning will continue to be encouraged.

- **Access to Buildings:** While the Ministry guidance welcomes visitors and community use, please bear with us as we unpack the operational impacts, while putting health and safety first. In the interim, if families are wanting to come into the school, please continue to make an appointment. Further details and information on community use will be shared later.
- **School-Specific Information:** Your principal will be in touch next week with additional details related to your school, such as schedules.

Students with Diverse Abilities

Students with diverse abilities will be welcomed back in September to full-time in-class instruction. An additional letter will be sent next week to families of students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Classroom Alternatives

I recognize that some families may be looking for an option outside of in-person learning. Before the pandemic began, the following choices were offered and continue to be available. Where unique and extenuating circumstances exist, we will continue to work with families on an individual basis.

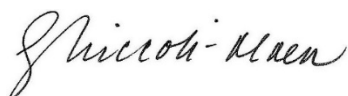
- **Online Distributed Learning:** Students enroll in an [online learning program](#), available throughout the province, such as the District's [Burnaby Online](#) where all lessons and assignments are delivered through the online learning portal. Students are supervised at home by their parent or guardian and assessed by a teacher who provides support through messaging, email or phone. There are no onsite classes, activities, group work, or Programs of Choice, such as French Immersion. Your child's spot in their current school or program is not held for this school year when they transfer to Online Distributed Learning.
- **Home Schooling:** Students are registered at their local school but indicate that they will be [home schooled](#). They do not attend or participate in school-based activities. There are no assignments or assessments from a teacher, as the parent or guardian is the primary educator. Your child's spot in their current school or program is not held for this school year when they transfer to home schooling.
- **Out of School Support (Homebound) Program:** Students who are immunocompromised or have a serious medical condition may be able to access this program, which is intended to support students while they are absent from school for periods, such as because of injury or illness, that prevent them from attending in person. If this applies to your child, please reach out to your principal to discuss it.

Additional Support

While there is excitement about coming back to school, I also appreciate that some may be feeling anxious about returning. Should you find them of use, you can find resources on the district website [here](#), including [Back To School Tips to Support Your Child](#). Please be assured that educational staff will be there to support your child as they start their learning routines. We remain committed to supporting families. Additionally, through federal and provincial funding recognizing the mental health impacts of COVID-19, we are adding more support and counselling access across the district, as well as additional staff training.

I hope that you will enjoy the remaining days of summer, and I am very much looking forward to welcoming you back in September.

Wishing you all the very best,



Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent